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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT

Daniel RUDHARDT et al

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To Be Assigned [This is a 371 of PCT/EP2004/014261]

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08.

I. Timeliness, Fees and Certifications in lieu of Fees

This information disclosure statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application, or within three months of entry into the national stage, or before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(b), consideration of this information disclosure statement does not require a fee or a statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e).

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II. Copies of Listed References

This application is a PCT national stage application, all references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 were cited in the international search report, and PCT/DO/EO/903 indicates that both the international search report and the copies of the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 are in this national stage file. Therefore, copies of the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 are not now being supplied.

III. Concise Statement of Relevance

All references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 are referred to in the specification and/or were cited in the international search report, and a copy of that search report, which indicates the degree of relevance found by the International Search Authority, is attached.

Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted

NORRIS MOLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

By

Kurt G. Briscoe

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Reg. No. 33,141

875 Third Avenue - 18th Floor

New York, New York 10022

Phone: (212) 808-0700 Fax: (212) 808-0844

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The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.197 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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